

FACT

The Master of Arts in English program provides you with the knowledge and understanding of civilization and culture as manifested in literature. You will explore, analyze, and debate texts in their critical, social, and political contexts, and determine the implications of differing cultural, historical, and philosophical perspectives. You gain not only a comprehensive grasp of great literature in English and of issues in critical theory, language, and rhetoric but also a variety of reading and interpretive strategies that can be applied to challenging personal, professional, and societal conditions.

Beyond the Classics

At GSU, English programs go beyond the classics. You study other cultures and societies through readings in African American, Native American, Latin, Asian, and women's literature. The broad, comprehensive curriculum leads you to understand and appreciate human motivation and behavior.

Academic Achievement

The master's degree program in English develops a sophisticated scope and proficiency in interpretation, analysis, writing, and the analytical skills acquired through the study of literature, theory, and rhetoric.

Career Advancement

The program meets the needs of teachers of English and others who wish to develop their abilities. The advanced study of English can lead to expanded careers in English, including teaching at the community college level; careers in publishing, editing, creative writing, and advertising; continuing graduate and professional study in law, theology, and other disciplines; and doctoral level study.

For more information:

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Program Sequences

Students must choose a sequence.

The Literature Sequence curriculum demands that students explore, analyze, and debate texts in their critical, social, and political contexts, and determine the implications of their differing cultural, historical, and philosophical perspectives. Students gain a comprehensive grasp of great literature in English and of issues in critical theory, language, and rhetoric. They also learn a variety of reading and interpretive strategies that can be applied to challenging personal, professional, and societal conditions. The literature sequence requires a greater and more sophisticated scope and proficiency in interpretation, analysis, writing, and the analytical skills that one acquires through the study of literature, theory, and rhetoric, than is required of the bachelor's degree. This study of literature is designed to meet not only the needs of persons involved in the teaching of English but also those of adult students who wish to develop abilities that transcend any narrow specialization or particular career orientation.

The Writing Sequence curriculum is based on an English Studies "fusion" model, as it works to meld what are generally the curricular goals of sequences in professional writing and rhetoric and composition, in order to provide specialized and advanced education in the production of written texts and their theoretical underpinnings. Students who choose this sequence will study applicable rhetorical theories and produce complex, primarily written texts of various non-fiction genres and modalities. Students enrolled in the sequence will also study theories in writing pedagogy, giving them the opportunity to consider the relationships between writing production and the teaching of rhetoric and composition.

Special Admission Requirements

In addition to meeting the university admission criteria, applicants must:

1. have completed a bachelor's degree in English or in a very closely related field from a regionally accredited college or university with a 3.0 G.P.A.;
2. have an undergraduate major in English, literature, language, linguistics, or a closely related field;
3. submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE General Test including a score of "4" or higher on the Writing Subtest);
4. complete prerequisite course work with a "B" or better in each course; and
5. provide three letters of recommendation, with at least two letters from professors/instructors in the field.

Required Preparation

1. Students without the following undergraduate prerequisite course work will be granted conditional admission and be required to complete all prerequisites before full admission to the M.A. in English program: three hours in English (or British) Literature I or II, three hours in American Literature I or II, three hours in literary criticism, and three hours in Shakespeare, or Chaucer, or Major British Author. Students selecting the MA in English Writing Sequence in lieu of Shakespeare, or Chaucer, or Major British Author are required to have completed three hours in Advanced Composition or Rhetorical Theory. Completion of all prerequisites is required in addition to graduate degree requirements noted.
2. Students must maintain a G.P.A. of 3.0 for the first nine credit-hours to continue enrollment. Only one course in which a student earns less than a "B" may be repeated once.

Admission to Candidacy

After admission as a degree-seeking student, a student will also apply for candidacy after completing her or his course work. Application for candidacy should be made at the beginning of the term in which the student expects to fulfill the candidacy requirements (successful completion of ENGL-8950 for non-thesis students; after 18 credit hours are earned for thesis students). Application forms are available in the college office. To qualify for degree candidacy for the thesis option, a student must do the following:

1. complete each course for the M.A. in English with a "B" (3.0) or better;
2. complete a detailed, approved proposal for a master's thesis; and
3. complete thesis proposal form with the signatures of three full time English faculty who have agreed to serve on the student's thesis committee; the primary thesis advisor must be from the tenure-stream faculty.

More detailed candidacy information is available through the M.A. in English advisors.

Degree Requirements Literature Sequence

Required Courses Thesis Option (21 Hours)

With faculty approval, students in the Literature Sequence may choose a thesis option. To receive approval for the thesis option, a student must propose a thesis project after 18 credit hours have been completed to the English program tenure-stream faculty. At least two of the faculty members must vote 'yes' for the student to receive approval. In the thesis option, a student completes research and prepares a formal thesis manuscript. The thesis option would be appropriate for students who have research interests or who intend to pursue doctoral studies.

ENGL - 7100 Introduction to Graduate Studies (3) *
* Must be taken as early as possible in the graduate student's career, preferably within the first two terms.

ENGL - 7200 Seminar: Studies in Theory (3)
ENGL - 8700 Graduate Research (1-4)

Select three of the following courses (9 credit hours):

ENGL - 7500 College Composition Theory & Practice (3)
ENGL - 8540 Seminar: British Literature (3)
ENGL - 8550 Seminar: American Literature (3)
ENGL - 8560 Seminar: Women's Literature (3)
ENGL - 8570 Seminar: World Literature (3)

ENGL - 8900 Graduate Thesis (3) **
** Cannot be attempted until after completing the required courses and the 12 credit-hours of selective courses.

Total Thesis Option = 33 Hours

Required Courses Non-thesis Option (22 Hours)

In the non-thesis option, a student takes ENGL - 8950 Comprehensive Examination in English (1). More information concerning the options is available in the English Graduate Student Handbook.

ENGL - 7100 Introduction to Graduate Studies (3) *

* Must be taken as early as possible in the graduate student's career, preferably within the first two terms.

ENGL - 7200 Seminar: Studies in Theory (3)

ENGL - 7500 College Composition Theory and Practice (3)

ENGL - 8540 Seminar: British Literature (3)

ENGL - 8550 Seminar: American Literature (3)

ENGL - 8560 Seminar: Women's Literature (3)

ENGL - 8570 Seminar: World Literature (3)

ENGL - 8950 Comprehensive Examination

in English (1) **

** Cannot be attempted until after completing the required courses and the 12 credit-hours of selective courses.

Additional Requirements (12 Hours)

With the advisor's approval, students will select 12 credit hours of 6000-plus level courses in literature, composition, rhetoric, or closely related fields.

Total Non-thesis Option = 34 Hours

Degree Requirements Writing Sequence

Required Courses (25 Hours)

ENGL - 7100 Introduction to Graduate Studies (3) *

* Must be taken as early as possible in the graduate student's career, preferably within the first two terms.

ENGL - 7200 Seminar: Studies in Theory (3)

ENGL - 7500 College Composition Theory & Practice (3)

ENGL - 8530 Sem: Theories in Tech & Prof. Writing (3)

ENGL - 8751 Research in Workplace Rhetoric (3)

ENGL - 8800 Capstone: Internship (3)

Select two of the following courses (6 credit hours):

ENGL - 8540 Seminar: British Literature (3)

ENGL - 8550 Seminar: American Literature (3)

ENGL - 8560 Seminar: Women's Literature (3)

ENGL - 8570 Seminar: World Literature (3)

ENGL - 8950 Comprehensive Examination

in English (1) **

** Cannot be attempted until after completing the required courses and the 9 credit-hours of selective courses.

Additional Requirements (9 Hours)

With the advisor's approval, students will select 9 credit hours of 6000-plus level courses in literature, composition, rhetoric, or closely related fields.

Total - 34 Hours

